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AUG 22 2001

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

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Dear President Bush:

No! Our nation's radioactive nuclear waste should not go to Yucca Mountain in Nevada near the Nevada Test Site. As you know, our nation is producing tons upon tons of radioactive waste from our nuclear power plants, none of which are in Nevada. Yet the Department of Energy still believes that we can use their so biologically diverse land to store the rest of the nation's radioactive waste in Yucca Mountain. Well we can't. There are endangered species there, it would break a treaty, and there are potential geologic disasters. Endangered species appear so important to our nation, but if we put the waste at Yucca, who are we protecting?

America has always prided itself on helping save endangered animals from extinction. America has set up the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to help protect the environment (hence the names.) Endangered animals are in contract to be protected. By law, that is what America proposed to do, and we should do it! There are many kinds of endangered animals around Yucca Mountain, according to the Department of Energy. Since it is in the Nevada Test Site, the bombs there have killed many animals already. Now the Yucca Mountain area has gotten so much radiation already, that not much more radiation would provoke some serious problems. Many animals that are endangered at the Nevada Test Site are endangered in other areas as well. By putting waste here as a repository, we would wipe out many animals. The transportation, construction, and radiation would be too much for these animals to bear. As America's economy grows, we will have more of a need to do activities like this, but it is important that we don't go too far over the edge.

We Americans, being free, believe in keeping ourselves in good reputation and trust of others. America has treaties signed with other nations, including Japan, France, and the Shoshone Native American tribe. The US Government and the Shoshone Native American people signed the Treaty of Ruby Valley. Signed during the Civil War, it allowed Americans to bring trains through, and mine gold in Ruby Valley, the Western Shoreline. In this contract however, it did not say that we could bury radioactive waste there. In this context we are breaking treaty. Therefore, America is dropping its reputation by breaking promises with another people. Radioactive bombs in Ruby Valley and radioactive waste in Yucca Mountain have caused distress with these Native Americans already. America has, and since its rebirth after World War II, had an exemplary reputation. By being dishonest, and ignorant to these Native Americans, we are also cheating on ourselves. That would make us lose trust, and to make reckless decisions.

In addition to breaking a treaty, and endangering species, there are geologic problems associated with Yucca Mountain. There are nearby cinder cone volcanoes, a chance of volcanic activity. Cinder cones have a reputation for pyroclastic flows, the most dangerous volcanic flow possible. Pyroclastic flows will spill radioactive waste throughout the area. Radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain would contaminate the groundwater. Contaminated water could provoke serious problems, like the radioactive milk at Three Mile Island. Even if the groundwater is not contaminated, people, socio-economically, won't affiliate themselves with that water. Additionally, Yucca Mountain is classified as a "class four earthquake zone," by the US Geologic Survey. There are thirty-three faults in the Yucca Mountain vicinity, and two directly under Yucca Mountain. All these faults are active, and the plates can move anytime. On account of the geologic problems, Yucca Mountain would be unsafe for the waste.

For the better of our nation, environmentally, and economically, the radioactive nuclear waste should not go to Yucca Mountain. We would kill animals, many of which are endangered. We would break a treaty, and there are potential geologic disasters. Through these reasons, you, as our nations trusted leader, should stop the nuclear waste from going to Yucca Mountain. Think about it, do we really want to ruin the nation that we have spent so much time and effort building up?

Sincerely,

*Brian  
Lohotsky*

Brian Lohotsky